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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/991,344	11/20/2001	Shawn R. Gettemy	PALM-3676	4295

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EXAMINER

LAO, LUN YI

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2673

DATE MAILED: 12/04/2003

2

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/991,344

Applicant(s)

GETTEMY ET AL.

Examiner

Lao Y Lun

Art Unit

2673

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 8-13, 15-21 and 23-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7, 14 and 22 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to because it is required that Legends be provided for all symbolically illustrated structure in the drawings; see 37 CFR 1.84(o). The following elements must be labeled: Figure 1-110-140 and 160-180. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-2 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ranf et al(5,486,847).

As to claims 1, 2 and 11, Ranf et al teach an input detection system for an electronic device comprising a first display(16) ; a sensor(20) for detecting an indication in proximity to but not in contact with the surface of the sensor(20); a control circuit (in a

Art Unit: 2673

notepad computer(6)) coupled to the sensor(20) and the first display(16) to register the indication as input to the electronic device(6)(see figures 1-2; column 1, lines 11-26; column 3, lines 39-67 and column 4, lines 1-32).

As to claim 2, Ranf et al teach the sensor(20) is a capacitive sensor(see figures 1-2 and column 4, lines 1-10).

4. Claims 1, 4 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Murakami et al(4,988,837).

As to claims 1, 4 and 19, Murakami et al teach an input detection system for an electronic device comprising a first display(50) ; a sensor(10) for detecting an indication in proximity to but not in contact with the surface of the sensor(10); a control circuit (900) coupled to the sensor(10) and the first display(50) to register the indication as input to the electronic device(1)(see figures 1-9; column 1, lines 55-61; column 4, lines 9-19; column 5, lines 66-68 and column 6, lines 1-56).

As to claims 4 and 9, Murakami et al teach the sensor(10) is an inductive sensor(see figures 1, 4 and column 5, lines 16-34).

5. Claims 1, 4 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Garwin et al(5,218,173).

As to claims 1, 4 and 19, Garwin et al teach an input detection system for an electronic device(notebook) comprising a first display(12) ; an inductive sensor(22) for detecting an indication in proximity to but not in contact with the surface of the sensor(22); a control circuit (14, circuit in a notebook) coupled to the sensor(10) and the first display(12) to register the indication as input to the electronic device(see figures 1,

5-6; column 3, lines 57-68; column 4, lines 9-15 and lines 51-68 ; and column 5, lines 1-21).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 3, 5-6, 8-10, 12-13, 15- 18, 20-21 and 23-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ranf et al(5,486,847) or Garwin et al(5,218,173) in view of Saw et al(96,445,574).

As to claims 3, 5-6, 8-10, 12-13, 15- 18, 20-21 and 23-25, Ranf et al or Garwin et al fail to disclose a sensor for detecting an electronic device being handled, a cover coupled to the electronic device by a hinge and a second display being transparent when the cover is in a closed position.

Saw et al teach an electronic device(1) comprising a sensor(48) for detecting an electronic device being handled(a cover is in a open position); a cover(12) coupled to the electronic device(1) by a hinge(11) and a second display(30 or 46) being transparent when the cover(12) is in a closed position for viewing a first display(16, 44)(see figures 1-3; column 2, lines 53-65 and column 3, lines 40-50). It would have been obvious to have modified Ranf et al or Garwin et al with the teaching of Saw et al,

so as to provide reduce the size of the electronic device for storage and/or carrying and a user still could view an essential information presented on a first display even the cover is closed.

As to claims 6, 8, 9, 13-16, 20-21 and 23-24, Saw et al teach a sensor(48) having a threshold(switch) for sensing a cover(12) being closed or open(see figures 1, 3 and column 3, lines 40-50).

As to claims 10, 17 and 25, it would have been obvious to have a second sensor coupled a second display so a user could also input data on a second display.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 7, 14 and 22 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Kim(6,466,292) teaches an LCD display comprising a switch(220) for detecting the open and closed states of the folding cover(210).

Gillespie et al(5,889,236) teach a proximity sensor system.

Landmeier(5,381,160) teaches a touch sensor(22) behind the LCD(10).

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lun-yi, Lao whose telephone number is (703) 305-4873.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin Shalwala, can be reached at (703) 305-4938.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

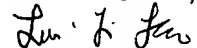
or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

November 24, 2003


Lun-yi Lao
Primary Examiner